

Maimonides (the Rambam), the great scholar, codifier, physician and philosopher.

The Maimonides School will present Abraham "Avi" Losice the Dr. Morton Berger Memorial Award. The Berger Award is presented annually to an outstanding individual who combines Torah with worldly excellence.

In addition, the Maimonides School will present Zahir awards to the following persons: Dr. Joe Adler, Lori Calka, Phil Chandler, Salia Galitz, Judy Kaskel, Rivka Kochman, Dr. Michael Lozman, Thomas Nathan, Raizel Neiman, Barbara Scher, Tanya Schwartz, Rita Shachne, Chana Sidi, Jack Sissman, and Rachel Weitz.

CELEBRATING ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2007

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, May is Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, an occasion to celebrate unique and beautiful cultures that enhance all of our lives, but also to highlight how Americans of all different backgrounds are inextricably linked in our effort to build a better future for our country and a better life for our children.

Finding unity in diversity is at the very core of what makes us Americans.

I have the good fortune of representing a very diverse region in the Bay Area—the Peninsula and part of San Francisco. With well over 100,000 Asian and Pacific Islander Americans and generations of their descendants, we have all seen first-hand the stunning contributions of these Americans to our community, and we owe them our thanks. In fields as varied as the arts, health care, business and military service, Asian Pacific Americans are central to our quality of life.

I have personally had the honor of participating in a wide variety of cultural celebrations, such as the Chinese Lunar New Year ceremony in San Francisco this year, and a Japanese tea ceremony that I am hosting for my colleagues in Washington next week. Events like these not only help preserve Asian and Pacific Island heritage, but enrich our entire community and remind us all that there is more to our world than what lies between our shores.

As we begin the celebration of this Heritage Month, it is important to take note of this year's theme: "Meeting the Challenges for Asian Pacific Americans in 2007." We do face serious and urgent challenges, including the need to secure the benefits that our Filipino-American veterans so richly deserve.

I myself am an American by choice, and I understand what it means to come to this country with nothing more than an unwavering commitment to give your children the broadest possible set of opportunities. Immigration has played a vital role in the success of this nation. Yet sadly, as many as 1.5 million Asians are currently caught in an immigration backlog for family visas, and continue to spend holidays and special occasions far away from their loved ones. The Democratic-led Congress is leading the way toward comprehensive reform that not only addresses our nation's real security needs but protects and unites families.

Once Asian and Pacific Islander Americans arrive in this country, it is our vital responsibility to protect and defend them, along with all victims of malicious, hate-motivated crime. In 2005, at least 199 people were victims of anti-Asian violence—each act a crime not only against the individual but against our country as a whole. Democrats in the House will act on the Local Law Enforcement Hate Crimes Prevention Act to give the Justice Department authority to prosecute hate crimes in which the victim was selected because of their race, color, religion, national origin, gender, sexual orientation or disability.

Democrats in Congress are taking seriously their responsibility to stand up for Asian Pacific American families. We are hard at work on issues that affect Asian and Pacific Islander families and all American families—critical issues such as education, health care, proper training and equipment for our troops and quality care for our veterans. We are committed to ensuring that these issues remain top priorities in the coming months.

Asian Pacific Americans in our community have proved to all of us that the American dream is vibrant, and that its great promise is kept alive when we join together to celebrate our diverse heritage. Americans' ability to not only tolerate our neighbor's different cultural background, but to embrace it, as we do this month, is at the heart of what makes the United States truly the greatest nation in the world.

TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN DANIEL MACLEOD

HON. WILLIAM D. DELAHUNT

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2007

Mr. DELAHUNT. Madam Speaker, I rise today so that my colleagues in the House of Representatives can join me in honoring the exemplary career of a constituent and fellow Coastie.

After 26 years of service, Captain Daniel MacLeod, originally of Hanover, Massachusetts, will be retiring from the United States Coast Guard on June 29, 2007. Captain MacLeod's extended résumé boasts an impressive list of accomplishments.

After Graduating the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in 1981, Captain MacLeod served as First Lieutenant aboard USCGC VALIANT and then as a Navy Exchange Officer aboard USS GRIDLEY. Captain MacLeod then served as executive officer of TACLET Miami conducting counter-drug operations. While serving as Operations Officer for USCGC RUSH (WHEC-723), Captain MacLeod received TAD orders to the Persian Gulf with the first group of Coast Guardsmen to participate in Operation Desert Shield. After a tour at Coast Guard Headquarters as part of the Deepwater Mission Analysis Staff, Captain MacLeod spent two years as Executive Officer of CGC TAMPA (WMEC-902). Then, in January of 2000 Captain MacLeod was assigned as Commanding Officer of USCGC FORWARD (WMEC-911). Both the TAMPA and FORWARD completed numerous counter-drug, homeland security, alien migration interdiction operation patrols.

In June 2002, Captain MacLeod was assigned as Chief of the Marine Protected Spe-

cies Division. While assigned, Captain MacLeod headed up the Maritime Homeland Security and General Law Enforcement Division. On October 1, 2007, Captain MacLeod will be retiring from the United States Coast Guard as Chief of the Deepwater Human Systems Integration Office.

As a former Coast Guard Reservist and co-chair of the Coast Guard Caucus, it is an honor to recognize Captain MacLeod's many years of admirable service. I wish him all the best in his retirement and know that his courage and leadership will be missed.

HONORING CORPORAL NICK S. POLIZZOTTO OF THE SOUTH BEND POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. JOE DONNELLY

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2007

Mr. DONNELLY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Corporal Nick S. Polizzotto, a nine year veteran of the South Bend Police Department, who gave his life in the line of duty. For the people of South Bend, Indiana, Corporal Polizzotto was, indeed, a hero.

On April 24, 2007, a report of gunshots brought Corporal Polizzotto and his partner, Patrolman Michael Norby, to a local motel. There, at 1:37 a.m., an armed suspect shot both policemen, killing Corporal Polizzotto. Patrolman Norby credits Corporal Polizzotto with saving his life.

Our community has lost a beloved family member, a generous friend, a devoted father and a dedicated protector. Often described as having a heart of gold, he proudly wore his uniform and bravely patrolled the streets of our city until making the ultimate sacrifice.

Born and raised in South Bend, Nick always wanted to be a police officer and graduated from Indiana University with a degree in Criminal Justice. During his many years as a Southeast South Bend beat officer, he received 18 commendations and was Officer of the Month in 2006.

Corporal Polizzotto leaves behind his parents, his son, Joseph, a brother and sister and countless relatives and friends who loved him. South Bend has lost a brave guardian.

Madam Speaker, we grieve for our hero, Corporal Nick Polizzotto. May God welcome him home and give comfort to his family and friends.

IN CELEBRATION OF FRESNO COUNTY FARM BUREAU'S 90TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. JIM COSTA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, May 1, 2007

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor California's Fresno County Farm Bureau.

Agriculture continues to be California's number one industry with Fresno County leading the way as the most productive agricultural county in California. The fertile soils of Fresno County support over 350 different crops, valued at nearly \$5 billion annually to the California economy. These crops, many of which